Tools to scaffold students in engaging with science text.

All classrooms have students who have difficulty with reading and consequently in engaging with science text. While all students need to develop their skills of reading for understanding, some students find that their difficulty with reading impacts on their ability to achieve at science. While we will aim to develop the literacy skills of all these students, for some additional scaffolding is needed while these skills develop. In addition, the readability of much science text, whether online or in another form, presents obstacles for these students for their science learning, as many websites containing science content have a high reading age. In addition, reading online is something many students struggle with because of the numerous distractors present on the page and the unorthodox layout of pictures, diagrams and text.

Below you can access two screencasts which demonstrate how two online tools can be used to:

➢ Improve the readability of our everyday resources - a tool for teachers.
➢ Improve the readability of online science text and resources – a tool for students.

Click on the images below to find a screen-cast giving some guidance on each of these two issues.